

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-11 are currently pending in this application. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended to correct minor informalities, as requested by the Examiner. Claims 2-8 have been amended to correct obvious typographical errors. Claim 6 has been amended to correct indefiniteness issues. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all outstanding rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-11 stand objected to for minor informalities. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended to correct the informalities cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner asserts that “[i]t is unclear which steps of the step-less water purifying process...are the aerobic steps”.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for supplying oxygen to a water purification process.

Steps (a), (b) and (c) recited in this claim refer to steps in said oxygen-supplying method. The oxygen-supplying method comprises a step of adding an oxygen carrier to a water purification process. As recited in claim 6, the water purification process to which the oxygen carrier is added comprises aerobic steps. One of the embodiments of the method for supplying oxygen of the present invention comprises adding a copolymer to the aerobic steps of the water purification process.

Claim 6 has been amended to more clearly recite the present invention. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-11 are allowable over the prior art for the reasons given in the PCT application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants submit that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and objections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the

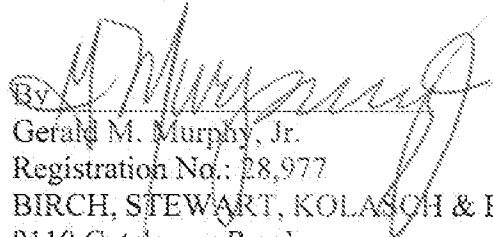
present application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., Reg. No. 28,977 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


By _____
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